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ABSTRACT

The Colorado Quality Standards for Early Childhood Care and Education Services outline and describe quality practices in early childhood programs. The standards support a high quality learning environment and encourage the effective and efficient use of public and private resources to meet children's needs. This videotape and discussion guide are designed to introduce the quality standards to child care staff and administrators. Filmed at various child care sites in Colorado, the 20-minute videotape illustrates the standards in practice, in the areas of staff interaction with the child, curriculum planning to keep the children actively engaged in learning, and communication between staff and parents. The accompanying 12-page "Video Discussion Guide" provides a general rationale for quality standards and outlines the specific Colorado Quality standards, which also cover staff qualifications and development, program administration, physical environment, health and safety, nutrition, and program evaluation. Tips for using the videotape are then listed, followed by learning activities to use with parents and activities to use with members of the teaching team. The guide concludes with suggested ways to use the videotape and the Colorado Quality Standards for staff development. (HTH)

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